



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI

ALLIED BANK TOWER AT FOUNTAIN PLACE

1445 ROSS AVENUE

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

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Superfund Update

January 1988

ARKWOOD, INC.
Omaha, Arkansas
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Site Investigation

An agreement has been reached between the property owners and Mass Merchandisers, Inc., regarding access to the Arkwood site. This agreement allows the field investigation work to begin. In the next few weeks, activity at the site will include on-site mobilization such as establishing utility connections, setting up a mobile office trailer, and moving equipment onto the site. Because of the delays in beginning the remedial investigation and feasibility study process, the projected completion date is now the fall of 1989.

Quarterly Sampling

Sampling nearby springs and wells will now resume. The next round of samples will be taken in late February or March during high flow conditions. The timing of subsequent sampling events will be keyed into rainfall and stream flow conditions at the site to ensure that samples are obtained during wet, dry and intermediate periods. Again, every effort will be made to contact the property owners in advance of the sampling and the individual results will be mailed to the property owners and known water users. A summary of the results will be mailed to everyone on the Arkwood mailing list.

For Further Information

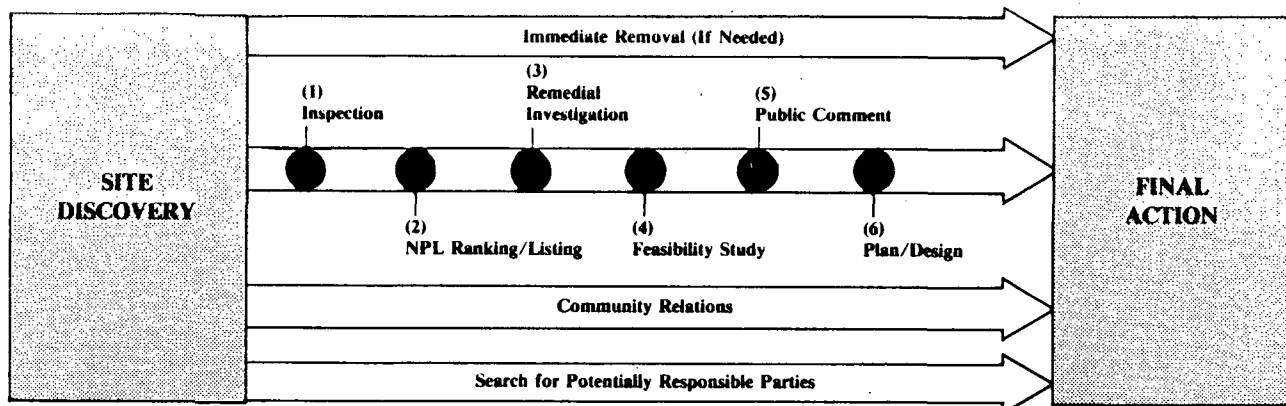
Information updates will be published on a regular basis; however, if you have questions or need additional information, please call or write:

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U.S. EPA'S SUPERFUND PROCESS

In 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as Superfund. This act authorizes EPA to respond to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health, welfare, or the environment. The 1980 law set up a fund of \$1.6 billion to pay for the investigation and cleanup of sites where parties responsible for the problems are unable or unwilling to clean up the sites. In October 1986, Congress amended and reauthorized the Superfund law increasing the size of the fund to about \$8.5 billion.

The figure above provides a brief explanation of how a Superfund response works.

The six steps shown in the figure are discussed below.

After a site is discovered, it is (1) inspected, usually by the state, which then (2) ranks the site, using a system that takes into account:

- Possible health risks to the human population;

- Potential hazards (e.g., from direct contact, inhalation, fire, or explosion) created by substances at the site;

- Potential for the substances at the site to contaminate air or drinking water supplies; and,

- Potential for substances at the site to pollute or harm the environment.

If the site's problems are serious enough, it will be listed on the National Priorities List (NPL), a roster of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. Sites on the NPL are eligible for federal Superfund money.

Next, EPA develops a work plan and conducts a (3) Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI assesses the type of contaminants present, identifies the degree of contamination, and characterizes potential risks to the community. Following the RI, EPA does a (4) Feasibility Study (FS), to examine the feasibility of various alternative remedies. Upon completion of the FS, a (5) public comment period is held. A specific long-term action is then chosen and (6) designed. Once these planning activities are finished, the actual cleanup begins.

Ongoing activities during the Superfund process include:

• Regular Monitoring.

EPA monitors the site during remedial activities. If a site becomes an imminent threat to public health or the environment during the RI/FS, EPA may conduct an emergency action, known as a removal.

• Community Relations.

Throughout the Superfund process, EPA keeps area citizens and local officials informed about site activities and provides opportunities for the citizens to participate in decisions made about the site. Public comment periods are held at certain key points in the process to provide EPA with information about citizens' questions and concerns. This information will be considered when making decisions about cleanup activities at a site.

• Search for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's).

Having initially designated a site as an NPL site, EPA undertakes a thorough investigation to identify parties who may be legally responsible for the waste contamination problem. The search for PRP's can and frequently does continue throughout the RI/FS process. Once identified, these parties are asked to sign a Consent Decree and to participate in the cleanup. If they refuse, they may face various legal actions.